

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-18 and 20-24 are pending. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-11, 13-18 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,259,691 ("Naudus") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,953 ("Vaid"). The Examiner additionally objected to claims 3 and 13-14 as being improper multiple dependent claims and as being dependent on canceled claims. Applicants traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 3 to depend from claim 1 instead of from canceled claim 2 and have amended claims 13-14 to each depend from claim 10 instead of from canceled claim 12. Further, these claims each only refer back to a single preceding claim and are not multiple dependent claims. Thus, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to these claims.

With regard to the 103(a) rejections, U.S. Patent No. 6,259,691 and this application were, at the time the invention of this application was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to, 3Com Corporation. The accompanying RCE is a continuing application filed after November 29, 1999 that makes 103(c) applicable to this application and accordingly disqualifies Naudus from being used as the basis for any proper 103(a) rejection. Since Naudus cannot form the basis of a 103(a) rejection, claims 1, 3-11, 13-18 and 20-24 are allowable.

If any questions or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney, Brian Harris, at his direct dial number (312) 913-3303.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

4/9/04

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